

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT COURT OF VIRGINIA
Alexandria Division**

Tamatha Pinza,

Plaintiff,

v.

Capital One Bank (USA), N.A.,

1680 Capital One Drive
McLean, VA 22102-3491

Defendant.

Civil Action No. _____

COMPLAINT

NOW COMES Plaintiff, Tamatha Pinza (“Plaintiff”), through her attorneys, and hereby alleges the following against Defendant, Capital One Bank (USA), N.A. (“Defendant”):

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself individually seeking damages and any other available legal or equitable remedies resulting from the illegal actions of Defendant, in negligently, knowingly, and/or willfully contacting Plaintiff on Plaintiff’s cellular telephone in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (hereinafter “TCPA”), 47 U.S.C. § 227 *et seq.*

2. The TCPA was legislated to prevent companies like Chase Bank USA, N.A. from invading Americans’ privacy by stopping abusive “robo-calls.” The legislative history “described these calls as ‘the scourge of modern civilization, they wake us up in the morning; they interrupt our dinner at night; they force the sick and elderly out of bed; they hound us until we want to rip the telephone out of the wall.’ 137 Cong. Rec. 30, 821 (1991). Senator Hollings presumably intended

to give telephone subscribers another option: telling the autodialers to simply stop calling.” Osorio v. State Farm Bank, F.S.B., 746 F.3d 1242, 1255-56 (11th Cir. 2014).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. Jurisdiction of this Court arises under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(3). See, Mims v. Arrow Financial Services, LLC, 565 U.S. 368 (2012), holding that federal and state courts have concurrent jurisdiction over private suits arising under the TCPA.

4. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 1391(b)(1) because Defendant has its principal place of business in McLean, Virginia.

PARTIES

5. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Walla Walla County, in the city of Walla Walla, Washington and is otherwise *sui juris*.

6. Defendant is a nationally chartered bank with its principal place of business in McLean, Virginia. Defendant is a person, as defined by 47 U.S.C. §153 (39).

7. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendant has acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heir, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives and insurers.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

8. Defendant placed collection calls to Plaintiff seeking and attempting to collect on alleged debts incurred through purchases made on credit issued by Defendant.

9. Defendant placed collection calls to Plaintiff’s cellular telephone at phone number (509) XXX-7998.

10. Defendant placed collection calls to Plaintiff from various phone numbers including, but not limited to (800) 365-2024.

11. On information and belief based on the great number of calls, their timing and frequency, and Defendant's prior business practices, Defendant's calls were placed with an automated telephone dialing system ("auto-dialer").

12. Defendant used an "automatic telephone dialing system", as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227(a)(1) to place its telephone calls to Plaintiff seeking to collect a consumer debt allegedly owed by Plaintiff, Tamatha Pinza.

13. Defendant's calls were not for emergency purposes as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A).

14. Defendant's calls were placed to a telephone number assigned to a cellular telephone service for which Plaintiff incurs a charge for incoming calls pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1).

15. Defendant never received Plaintiff's "prior express consent" to receive calls using an automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice on her cellular telephone pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A).

16. On or about August 8, 2018, Plaintiff called Defendant's company at phone number (800) 365-2024, spoke with Defendant's representative who identified himself as "Alvin" and requested that Defendant cease calling Plaintiff's cellular telephone.

17. During the conversation on August 8, 2018, Plaintiff gave Defendant her birthdate, social security number and telephone number to assist Defendant in identifying her and accessing her accounts before asking Defendant to stop calling her cellular phone.

18. Plaintiff revoked any consent, explicit, implied, or otherwise, to call her cellular telephone and/or to receive Defendant's calls using an automatic telephone dialing system in her conversation with Defendant's representative August 8, 2018.

19. Despite Plaintiff's request to cease, Defendant continued making autodialed calls to Plaintiff after August 8, 2018.

20. Defendant continued to place collection calls to Plaintiff, at least, through late November 2018.

21. Despite Plaintiff's request that Defendant cease placing automated collection calls, Defendant placed at least one hundred twenty-four (124) automated calls to Plaintiff's cellular phone.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
NEGLIGENT VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT
47 U.S.C. § 227

22. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference into this cause of action the allegations set forth above at Paragraphs 1-21.

23. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple negligent violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227 *et seq.*

24. As a result of Defendant's negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227 *et seq.*, Plaintiff is entitled to an award of \$500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).

25. Plaintiff is also entitled to seek injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
KNOWING AND/OR WILLFUL VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER
PROTECTION ACT
47 U.S.C. § 227 *et. seq.*

26. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference into this cause of action the allegations set forth above at Paragraphs 1-21.

27. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple knowing and/or willful violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq.

28. As a result of Defendant's knowing and/or willful violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq., Plaintiff is entitled an award of \$1,500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).

29. Plaintiff is also entitled to seek injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Tamatha Pinza, respectfully requests judgment be entered against Defendant, Capital One Bank (USA), N.A., for the following:

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

30. For statutory damages of \$500.00 multiplied by the number of negligent violations of the TCPA alleged herein (124); \$62,000.00;

31. Actual damages and compensatory damages according to proof at time of trial.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

32. For statutory damages of \$1,500.00 multiplied by the number of knowing and/or willful violations of TCPA alleged herein (124); \$186,000.00;

33. Actual damages and compensatory damages according to proof at time of trial.

ON ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

34. Litigation costs and reasonable attorneys' fees;

35. Any other relief that this Honorable Court deems appropriate.

JURY TRIAL DEMAND

36. Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all issues so triable.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Dated: December 27, 2018

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Pro Hac Vice Application to follow